6   an I/O controller manager coupled to the fabric services to assign the target

7   fabric-attached I/O controller to said host and to send messages to said host indicating

8   that the target fabric-attached I/O controller has been assigned.

1   21. (Amended)   A computer usable medium having computer readable

2   program code means embodied therein for use in a host system to report multiple paths

3   to a target fabric-attached I/O controller via a cluster fabric, said computer readable

4   program code means comprising:

5   a fabric bus driver provided to create and report multiple paths to a target fabric-

6   attached I/O controller via the cluster fabric; and

7   a fabric adapter device driver provided to interface to the cluster fabric for

8   enabling reporting the multiple paths to the target fabric-attached I/O controller.

1   --25.   A method of initializing a host to report multiple paths to a target fabric-

2   attached I/O device via a cluster fabric, comprising:

3   loading an operating system (OS) into a memory;

4   identifying all fabric-attached I/O devices assigned to the host;

5   reporting the identified fabric-attached I/O controllers; and

6   creating and reporting multiple paths to a target fabric-attached I/O device via the

7   cluster fabric.

1   26.   The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein the identified fabric-attached

2   I/O devices are reported, via a fabric bus driver included in the operating system (OS) to

2

3 provide a local I/O bus abstraction for the cluster fabric into the memory, using a

4 common set of procedures or commands.

1   27.   The method as claimed in claim 26, wherein the fabric bus driver is further

2 configured to create a separate device object for each port of the host that can be used

3 to communication with the target fabric-attached I/O device and establish the multiple

4 paths to the target fabric-attached I/O device, via the cluster fabric.

1   28.   The method as claimed in claim 26, wherein the multiple paths are utilized

2 for load balancing I/O requests and/or for fault tolerance when one or more paths to the

3 target fabric-attached I/O device fail.

1   29.   A method of initializing a host to report multiple paths to a target I/O

2 device via a cluster fabric, comprising:

3   loading a local I/O bus driver and a fabric bus driver providing a local I/O bus

4 abstraction for the cluster fabric into a memory;

5   identifying, using the local I/O bus driver, local I/O controllers connected to a

6 local I/O bus in the host; and

7   identifying, using the fabric bus driver, fabric-attached I/O devices assigned to

8 the host in order to determine multiple paths to a target fabric-attached I/O device, and

9 report all multiple paths to a target fabric-attached I/O device via the cluster fabric.

[handwritten: agent] 1   30.   The method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the multiple paths are utilized

2   for load balancing I/O requests and/or for fault tolerance when one or more paths to the

3   target fabric-attached I/O device fail.--